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History à la Carte: Stagville in Black and White

Lunchtime Talk with Photographer Brenda Scott

On **Wednesday, June 11, at noon**, photographer Brenda Scott will discuss some of the discoveries she made in relating the past to the present while creating the exhibit *Stagville: Black & White*. At this lunchtime program at the **N.C. Museum of History** in Raleigh, she will share her experiences of photographing and interviewing the descendants of Stagville State Historic Site in Durham. Scott's photographs capture the resilience of the buildings and the people that lived and worked in them. Bring your lunch for this free program; beverages will be provided.

Scott's interest in Stagville began as a study of the remaining buildings and original architecture on this 165-acre state historic site. A chance meeting with Stagville descendant Angela Russell (née Hart) shifted Scott's attention and inspired her to learn more about the site's people. She began interviewing the descendants and collecting images of their ancestors to gather information about their lives.

Scott says of the experience, "The more work I did at Stagville, the more I became aware of the stories that may never be told, particularly about the enslaved population who lived there."

The photographer notes that working with the descendants of Stagville is one of the most exciting parts of her ongoing project. She meets them at Stagville and visually records their reactions to their family connections with the site. Scott also captures video interviews of the descendants sharing portions of their family histories. Five of these can be seen in the exhibit *Stagville: Black & White*.

Scott, DPhil (Oxon.), has been playing with cameras for more than 30 years and has been producing digital photography for over a decade. She first received training as a musician and organologist before making the career switch to fine art photography. Scott holds degrees from the University of Oxford (Somerville College), UNC-Chapel Hill, Auburn University, and the Academy of Art University.

Her connection with Stagville spans over 30 years. She adds, "This body of work reflects both my interest in the documented facts about Stagville, as well as my desire to make people

aware of the untold stories — the everyday events that seem to echo in the spaces of Stagville — of places where they lived, loved and died.”

Come see these stories in the exhibit *Stagville: Black & White*, which has additional support from Bull City Art and Frame Company, Drs. George and Sue Neece, and Radiocentrix.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian-affiliated museum, call 919-807-7900 or access www.ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

About the N.C. Museum of History

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 300,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

About the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Cultural Resources (NCDCCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state’s cultural resources to build the social, cultural and economic future of North Carolina. Led by Secretary Susan W. Kluttz, NCDCCR’s mission to enrich lives and communities creates opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history and libraries in North Carolina that will spark creativity, stimulate learning, preserve the state’s history and promote the creative economy. NCDCCR was the first state organization in the nation to include all agencies for arts and culture under one umbrella.

Through arts efforts led by the N.C. Arts Council, the N.C. Symphony and the N.C. Museum of Art, NCDCCR offers the opportunity for enriching arts education for young and old alike and economic stimulus engines for our state’s communities. NCDCCR’s Divisions of Archives and Records, State Historic Sites, and State History Museums preserve, document and interpret North Carolina’s rich cultural heritage. NCDCCR’s State Library of North Carolina is the principal library of state government and builds the capacity of all libraries in our state, developing and supporting access to traditional and online collections such as genealogy and resources for the blind and physically handicapped.

NCDCCR annually serves more than 19 million people through its 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, the nation’s first state-supported symphony orchestra, the State Library, the N.C. Arts Council and the State Archives of North Carolina. NCDCCR champions our state’s creative industry that accounts for more than 300,000 jobs and generates nearly \$18.5 billion in revenues. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit www.ncdcr.gov.

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